

Wild white horses with a difference

Create Away's **Serge Krouglikoff** shares with us the thrill of the Camargue festival and finds a new star of dressage





We have been photographing the wild white horses splashing through the wild and untamed Camargue for some years now. Photographers and horse-lovers alike just can't get enough of them and often come back for more.

A professional photographer who joined one of our workshops loved it so much she asked to come back for a custom workshop over a long weekend. She was keen to get something different and asked about a dressage shoot with a Camargue horse. Being the only photography

workshop company based in the Camargue region provides me with strong and well-established links with the local people of the Camargue, offering privileged access to private domain, inaccessible to everyone else. So, I set about making enquiries and found just the person (and horse) to give us that something extra special, ready for the arrival of our pro at the start of the Aigues-Mortes Camargue Festival.

On the practice runs, the single white Camargue stallion, who is trained for festivals and shows, soon got used to his new role of rearing

on the sand dunes at full height and dashing and diving in the sea and surf, galloping out of the waves and onto the beach with his beautiful blond mane blowing in the wind and highlighted by the sun.

With the festival in full flow, we started with 'breakfast' with the *gardians* (Camargue cowboys) in the meadow. The French call it a *casse-croûte* – which is usually bread, saucisson and wine (not a croissant or fruit juice in sight!). Standing in a shallow, muddy, stream with wellies on, the *gardians* eventually rounded up the bulls and with three *gardians* flanking each



bull, they galloped into the medieval town, arriving with a clatter down the narrow cobbled streets – an entrance known as the *abrivado*.

On arrival the *vachette* took place, whereby young lads attempted, with all their means, to scare the horses into letting the bull escape into the crowds (with the most sensible staying behind the safety of the barriers). After a day of festivities and bull racing in town, it was time for the *bandido* (the late afternoon departure) with the process reversed as the cowboys flanked the bulls once more as they galloped back through town towards the meadow. It's exhilarating

to capture breathtaking action shots of the horses and bulls as they gallop through the old stone archways of the town with the warm autumn sun setting behind them.

After more wild white horses shoots in different locations in the marsh and on the beach, plus the stallions fighting, the highlight for our visiting pro was the single dressage stallion. A new star had been born and is now a staple on our Ultimate Camargue Horses workshops for all to enjoy.

For 2016, we have another exciting new idea that we will be working on this winter – it's a secret, but think Black Beauty – shhhh!



PROFILE

Serge Krouglikoff
founded Create
Away after an
illustrious

career in international fashion photography. Create Away are Camargue specialists and arrange photography workshops and tours to capture the iconic Wild White Horses, Pink Flamingos, Black Bulls, Stunning Landscapes and Classic Portraits. Outside the Camargue, Create Away also offers breathtaking Landscapes of Provence Villages, Lavender & Sunflower Fields, Graphic Atlantic Seascapes and now exhilarating Classic Yachts Regattas in Antibes & Saint Tropez on the Cote d'Azur.

